

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JULY 2, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman John Adams at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENT: John Adams, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, Mark C. Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

I. PUBLIC SESSION

No public addressed the Board.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 18, 2012 as presented.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Desrosiers, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the public hearing of June 21, 2012 as presented.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 2, 2012 as presented.

III. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Desrosiers, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0), to accept, with regret, the resignation of Matthew T. Wutka from the Board of Education.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to appoint Lucy E. Lindeyer (R), 367 North Granby Road, to the Agricultural Commission.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to appoint Lana M. Torres (R), 11 Indian Hill Drive, to the Conservation Commission.

First Selectman Adams indicated there is still a vacancy on the Development Commission and also added tonight is a vacancy on the Board of Education. Contact the Town Committee Chairmen B. Scott Kuhnly (R) or Margaret Chapple (D), or the Town Manager's office for further information.

B. Consideration of Class of 1988 Request for Permission for the Use of Alcohol at Salmon Brook Park for their 25th Year Class Reunion Event

The Granby Memorial High School Class of 1988 has requested a special use permit at Salmon Brook Park on October 6, 2012 to serve alcohol at their class reunion. Selectman Desrosiers asked what hours they would be using the park. Town Manager Smith responded it would be on a Saturday afternoon and they would be confined to a certain area. It was noted that the Granby Police would have this well under control and of course everyone would be out of the park by dark.

Selectman Desrosiers expressed his disagreement with the use of alcohol at the park especially with children at the park and games going on at the same time.

Selectman Neumann and Kuhnly were in agreement with the use of alcohol as long as the group abides by the rules and regulations.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted (3-1-0), with Selectman Desrosiers voting no, to approve the request for a special permit for the use of alcohol consumption during the event.

C. Consideration of Charter Revision Commission Draft

First Selectman Adams indicated that the most controversial part of the Charter Revision review process has been whether or not to continue with the Town Meeting format for budget approval or to go to an automatic referendum machine vote.

Selectman Neumann gave his thoughts in regard to the budget approval process. He indicated everyone should be guaranteed the right to vote and to make that available to everyone, the budget vote should go to an automatic referendum.

Selectman Desrosiers felt the Annual Town Meeting worked well. Selectman Desrosiers pointed out that this was his third Charter Revision Commission in which he has been involved as Selectman. During the past two Charter Revision Commissions, he has supported the voting on the budget at the Annual Town Meeting. During this Charter Revision Commission process, a frustration and lack of trust has been expressed in the existing budget voting process as noted by the comments at the public hearing and petition signed by over 1,400 people. Selectman Desrosiers said if we don't give the voters the option of an automatic referendum, the frustration, distrust, and anger will grow. As such, he agreed that the automatic referendum is a good way to go and he is in favor of the change.

Selectman Kuhnly thanked everyone on the Charter Revision Commission and all the folks that came to the public hearings. A lot of good points have been brought up and he feels there are other ways to educate people about the budget than the Annual Town Meeting. Therefore he is also in favor of the change to an automatic referendum.

First Selectman Adams felt the current system has given the town stability and lower tax rates. Granby has the lowest tax rates in the area except Burlington and Suffield. Suffield has a prison and receives money from the state. He feels that the town

meeting promotes involvement in town government and has saved the town ten's of thousands of dollars in past years by approving the budget at the town meeting as opposed to holding an automatic machine vote at a cost of over \$3,000 each time.

After discussion, the Board made the following motion regarding voting on the Annual Town Budget.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve holding a Board of Finance Public Hearing on the budget on the 2nd Monday in April and follow with an automatic referendum machine vote on the 4th Monday in April.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the remainder of the "Report of the Charter Revision Commission Revised Charter (Depicting Revisions) (June 4, 2012)". First Selectman Adams identified three exceptions to the Charter draft.

1. Chapter 10, Finance and Taxation, Section 10-2 (1st paragraph, 1st sentence): On or before the 3rd Monday in March the Town Manager shall present to the Board of Selectmen a budget consisting...
2. Chapter 11, The Town Meeting, Section 11-2 (1st paragraph, 3rd sentence): The Town Clerk shall serve as clerk of all Town meetings; but in the Town Clerk's absence, an appointed town staff person would take the place of the Town Clerk.
3. Chapter 11, The Town Meeting, Section 11-3(c) (3rd sentence): The voting ballot labels shall be approved by the Town Clerk.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the changes as amended by First Selectman Adams to the Charter draft.

It was pointed out that the Charter Commission can now accept or reject the Board's recommendations. They will then submit a final report to the Board within 30 days (August 6, 2012). The Board of Selectmen must then either accept or reject the Commission's final report within 15 days of receipt.

There was a discussion about the questions on the ballot in November and making sure they are clear so there is no confusion to the voters. The town attorney would approve wording of the questions. There was also discussion about the possibility of an insert in the Drummer with the entire revised Charter.

D. Consideration of Memo of Understanding between Holcomb Farm Inc. and Town of Granby

The approved interim Memo of Understanding has been revised and was developed by both the town and Holcomb Farm, Inc. Town Manager Smith indicated he believes both parties agree to the basics within the Memo of Understanding.

The Link and Learn grant program is no longer available and because of that, there was no funding for Holcomb Farm to continue with their programs as they were. The town was asked to take control of the farm, buildings, and property, including maintenance and capital improvements. Ultimately the town will be responsible for the farm and its programs. The plan is to continue with the 1993 "Plan of Use" which will serve as a guide by the town for future uses at the farm. They consist of education, agriculture, arts, and recreation.

The Department of Public Works will have more involvement at the farm and a responsibility of maintenance, at a cost to the town.

License Agreements, as referred to in the Memo of Understanding, are being worked on and will be provided to Board members when they are complete.

Selectman King (not present) read this Memo and was concerned with some of the wording. She feels it should be very clear so others that read this agreement, 20 years from now, will be able to understand it as it was meant to be. Robert Bystrowski, Holcomb Farm, Inc. Board President, feels the wording is clear and it is what it says. He indicated the Holcomb Farm, Inc. Board met earlier this evening and approved the Memo of Understanding as presented this evening.

Selectman Desrosiers had some questions regarding cost and obligations of the town. Town Manager Smith responded there is a need for start up money to go forward with programs, maintenance, etc. A ballpark figure of \$50,000 was noted as an annual cost to run the farm, which would ultimately be recouped by programs. That money would cover the cost of utilities, cleaning, and other fixed costs. There is no money presently budgeted for this. The town is still determining revenue sources. Selectman Desrosiers asked if the \$50,000 would cover the cost of improved parking and requested that the Board of Selectmen be made aware of any short-term improvement costs. Town Manager Smith responded it would not cover the cost of improved parking. A cost figure needs to be identified and needed capital improvements will be more evident in about six months.

Ultimately, it is the town's goal to keep the farm usable to the citizens.

V. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. Budget Operations Report – May 2012

Town Manager Smith reported tax collections are at 101% as of May. Interest and Liens is at 108% and Education Cost Sharing is at 100%. Misc. – State shows 141% due to the grant reimbursement for the Silver Street Bridge.

Town Clerk fees are a little behind expected revenues for this time of year. Building permits are in excess with 103% collected as of May, and Bulky Waste/Recycling has a surplus due to user activity at the drop-site. All in all, we are breaking even in revenues received.

The town has received final approval from FEMA for reimbursement for Storm Irene. The October storm applications to FEMA look good, but approval has not yet been received.

There are no appropriations needed this year.

VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)

First Selectman Adams reported there would be an open farm day on Saturday September 8, 2012. Michelle Niedermeyer, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, will have more information on this at the Board of Selectmen's August meeting.

VII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, and Mark C. Neumann)

No reports.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager